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**CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Ben Veatch of Carmel High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Veatch is the first Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Carmel High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the track, distinguishes Veatch as Indiana's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Veatch joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Meb Keflezighi (1993-94, San Diego HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The 5-foot-11, 135-pound senior swept the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:08.38 and the 3200 in 8:58.18 at the state meet this past season, leading the Greyhounds to the state championship as a team. The state's two-time Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Veatch also took silver in the 2-mile at the Brooks PR Invitational. His season-best times in the 1600 and 3200 both ranked in the nation's No. 25 prep performances in 2016 in those events at the time of his selection. His 8:50.92 at NBNO was the nation's No. 2 clocking in the 2-mile.

Veatch has maintained a 4.20 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home, youth running programs and the Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

"Ben is a team-first athlete whose time at Carmel has led to the most successful period in program history for cross country and track and field," said Carmel coach Ken Browner. "His work ethic and willingness to do whatever it takes to help the team sets him in a league of his own."

Veatch has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on an athletic scholarship at Indiana University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Veatch joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Deakin Volz (2014-15 & 2013-14, Bloomington High School South), Codie Hamsley (2012-13, Floyd Central High School), Futsum Zeinasellassie (2011-12, North Central High School), Austin Mudd (2010-11 & 2009-10, Center Grove High School), Corey Shank (2008-09, Northrop High School), Kevin Schipper (2007-08, Bishop Dwenger High School), and Benjamin Roy Stephen (2006-07, Union County High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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